

Resolution No.:	<u>19-439</u>
Introduced:	<u>April 28, 2020</u>
Adopted:	<u>April 30, 2020</u>

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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Lead Sponsor: Council President at the request of the County Executive

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**SUBJECT:** Special Appropriation #20-463 to the Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget  
Montgomery County Government  
COVID-19 Human Services Response and Community Assistance  
Non-Departmental Account (NDA)  
\$5,000,000 (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves)

**Background**

1. Section 308 of the County Charter provides that a special appropriation is an appropriation which states that it is necessary to meet an unforeseen disaster or other emergency, or to act without delay in the public interest. Each special appropriation shall be approved by not less than six Councilmembers. The Council may approve a special appropriation at any time after public notice by news release. Each special appropriation shall specify the source of funds to finance it.
2. The Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for somatic and behavioral health services to meet the needs of County residents. The Department has a strong set of safety net services for the County's most vulnerable and at-risk households.
3. A new coronavirus disease, named COVID-19, appeared in China in December 2019 and spread extremely quickly. On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared the disease a pandemic. The March 20, 2020 situation report from the World Health Organization stated that the number of confirmed cases worldwide has exceeded 200,000. It took over three months to reach the first 100,000 confirmed cases, and only 12 days to reach the next 100,000. As of April 23, 2020, there were over 800,000 confirmed cases in the United States, including 15,737 confirmed cases in Maryland, of which 3060 were in Montgomery County.
4. To slow the spread of the disease, Governor Hogan declared a State of Emergency and has issued several Executive Orders with actions that include, but are not limited to, closing schools, closing senior centers and adult medical day care programs, closing all non-essential businesses and limiting the number of people that can gather.

5. This public health crisis has resulted in the immediate loss of income for many households as businesses have been required to close and people have been told to stay home. This creates a financial crisis for many County residents, and it may not be addressed through financial assistance provided by the federal or State government. A program has been created to provide direct financial assistance to ease this burden and was funded with \$5 million for that purpose on March 31, 2020. This special appropriation increases the budget of that program by \$5 million to address the expected demand on those resources.
6. Public notice of the special appropriation was provided by news release and specified the source of funds as General Fund Reserves.

### Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

A special appropriation to the FY20 Operating Budget of the Montgomery County Government, in the amount of \$5,000,000 is approved as follows:

	<u>Personnel Expense</u>	<u>Operating Expense</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
COVID-19 Human Services Response and Community Assistance NDA	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000

This special appropriation must be used for direct financial assistance to County residents facing financial hardship because of the COVID-19 health crisis. Any direct financial assistance program must take into account resources available through federal and State programs. The County is committed to collaborating with the philanthropic sector to maximize the help that can be provided.

The County will seek federal and State reimbursement for program costs associated with response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This appropriation is needed to in response to a public health emergency and to act without delay in the public interest.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

  
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 Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.  
 Clerk of the Council